SOUTH TAWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, South Zeal, on Monday 22nd October 2012 at 7.30pm

Councillor C Coombs
Councillor W Cann
Councillor J White
Councillor J Jecks
Councillor C Critcher
Councillor A Sampson
Councillor A White

Dr P Brotherton (Clerk)

In attendance; Mrs. C. Newman, Mrs. J. McCaffery, Mr. J. Manley, Mrs E.Gordon McDonald, Mrs. Clatworthy, Mr. Hatch, Mr. D. Webber (DNPA Parish Link Member for South Tawton) and Mr. P. Love (Chairman, Board of Management for West Devon Homes)

12/102 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from councillors Guscott, Woolland and Watkins for personal and business reasons.

12/103 a. **Confirmation of election of chairman for this meeting.**

It was confirmed by all councillors that councillor C Coombs would chair this council meeting. Councillor Coombs welcomed the members of the public who attended the meeting.

b. **Election of chairman for 3 months from Tuesday 23rd October 2012**

Proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor Sampson, it was proposed that councillor C Critcher would chair the council for the next three meetings and that his period of office would start on Tuesday 23rd October 2012. All agreed.

12/104 Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda and update of Register of Interests.

No councillor wished to declare an interest in an agenda item nor wished to update his or her Register of Interests.

12/105 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th September 2012 were circulated, read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12/106 <u>Clerk's Report</u>

a. **Street cleaning**. **An update on the recent service visit.**

The clerk reminded council that following a report from Mr. McPhie and Mrs. Shaddick, who had asked why, after being asked to move cars for road cleaning, the service had not been provided, he had contacted WDBC. It had transpired that due to a mechanical equipment breakdown it had not been possible to sweep either Hillside/Croft or South Tawton on the day that South Zeal was done. Subsequently Croft/Hillside apparently had been done but there had been no report concerning South Tawton to date. It was pointed out by councillor J White that the road between Zeal Head and Ford Cross had not been done. It was decided to monitor this service in future.

b. **Position of P3 co-ordinator for council.**

The clerk was pleased to report that Mr. A. Stone had volunteered to take on this post and council confirmed that every support should be given to Mr. Stone to enable him to undertake this task.

c. **Recreation Ground clear-up morning.**

As several Recreation Ground committee members had been unable to attend this clear-up morning, it had been officially cancelled. However, a few adults and children had turned up to help on the day and some work had been undertaken under the direction of Mr. Souness, the chairman of the Recreation Ground committee. Mr. Souness had said that it was planned to hold another clear-up morning soon.

12/107 <u>Questions from parishioners</u>

a. Councillor J White (Vice Chairman) raised a point that had been brought to her attention regarding the alleged dumping of extremely offensive material in a field beside the road North from South Tawton hamlet, just over the A30 dual carriageway on the right. The clerk was asked to seek advice from West Devon Borough Council about the matter.

b. Councillor Sampson brought to council's attention the considerable amount of water that at times flowed down Craydon Hill.

c. Councillor Cann thought that he considered the quality of the work done on the holly tree in St. Mary's yard poor.

12/108 <u>Correspondence</u>

a. **Dartmoor National Park Management Plan survey**.

This document was presented to council. It was agreed that this document should be circulated to all councillors for them to discuss the matter and complete the questionnaire at the next meeting.

b. **Report from South Tawton Village Square Group**.

This report was read to council. With regard to a proposal to resurface the Square, council directed the clerk to ask Mr. Freeman what surfacing was proposed.

c. **New Registers of Interest**.

Councillor Jecks was thanked for scanning all these Registers of Interest and councillor A White for entering them all on the council website. The original signed copies had now all been forwarded to West Devon Borough Council.

12/109 **Agenda Items for discussion and resolution**

a. **Discussion about the bus shelter at Croft gate.**
The chairman, councillor Coombs, prefaced the discussion by outlining the position as she saw it and the advice that council had received concerning the position and orientation of the shelter. The clerk distributed copies of the proposals produced by Mr. S. Dawe, (DCC Neighbourhood Highway Officer for Hatherleigh & Chagford) which sought to improve the amenity by allowing a panel to be attached to the Eastern end of the present bus shelter without blocking the footpath. Mr. Dawe had reported that this could be achieved by minor alteration to the width of the footpath in front of the shelter to allow room for push chairs and prams to pass, whilst remaining on the footpath. When invited to contribute to the debate, Mrs. J. McCaffery, Mr. J. Manley and Mrs. Gordon McDonald voiced their concerns about the provision of bus shelters in general in the parish and the particular shortcomings, as they saw it, of the present one. Noting the comments made by Mr. Dawe concerning funding and timing for this project it was accepted that these alterations would probably not be addressed before April 2013. It was proposed by councillor Jecks and seconded by councillor A White that council accept Mr. Dawe's plans with thanks. All agreed.

Councillor Coombs invited Mr. P. Love (Chairman, Board of Management of West Devon Homes) to add to the conversation. Mr. Love suggested that parishioners living on the Croft/Hillfield might find it helpful to form a Residents' Group and encouraged them to discuss the matter. He said that he would be pleased to help set one up. Mr. Love was thanked for this helpful advice. At this point Mr. Love, Mrs. McCaffery, Mrs. Gordon McDonald and Mr. Manley left the meeting.

Council discussed the bus shelter modifications that had been suggested in previous meetings. However, initiated by councillor Critcher, the conversation turned to the possibility of completely replacing the present Croft bus shelter with a new bus shelter which would meet all the problems inherent in the present one. This radical solution would then allow the present Croft gate shelter to be moved to the East-bound bus stop at Prospect. Councillor J White undertook to research an alternative bus shelter. However, it was decided to go ahead with Mr. Dawe's plans which, coupled with modifications funded by the council, would definitely improve the situation for parishioners in the interim. Council were most pleased to hear that county councillor J. McInnes might be able to help fund this additional work and asked the clerk to keep in contact with him.

Tasks for the visit of the parish lengthsman in December.
Maps of the parish were distributed to councillors who proceeded to identify the areas that needed attention.

b. **Request for financial assistance from Okehampton District Community Transport Group.**
Council noted that the Group had provided information about the numbers of parishioners in receipt of this service. It was proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor J White that the Okehampton District Community Transport Group be granted £300 this year. All agreed.

c. **Request for financial assistance from West Devon Citizens Advice Group.**
It was proposed by councillor Cann and seconded by councillor Jecks that the Okehampton District Community Transport Group be granted £300 this year. All agreed and were pleased to note that this organisation had also provided information about the service to members of this parish.

d. **Further request to increase the churchyard grant to the PCC in future years.**
Council examined the additional information that had been requested. It was then proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Cann that the churchyard grant for next year would be increased from £800 to £920. All agreed.

e. **Celebrate your community. Update and decision on council support for grant award by DNPA.**
The clerk outlined the history of this offer. It was suggested and agreed that council would postpone a request for a grant to help manage the trees that at the moment obscured the view to which the Orientation Board referred until the matter had been discussed with councillor Woolland and the result of the History Group's grant application was known.

f. **Motion that council pay Mr. G. Henry £250 for the maintenance of Ramsley Common this year.**
Proposed by councillor A White and seconded by councillor Critcher it was agreed that this invoice be paid. Mr. Henry was thanked for his excellent management of Ramsley Common this year and council further agreed that it would be noted in the debate on the budget for next year that he was willing to continue this service.

g. **Reply from Mr. R. Halliday concerning the return of a grant to the Football Club**.
A brief note from Mr. Halliday stating the date of the Football Club's next meeting was read to council.

h. **Email from Mr. N. Payne about flooding at Taw Green.**
Council noted an email received from Mr Payne. It was greed that council would do all that it could to support Mr. Payne's concerns. Mr. D. Webber (DNPA Parish Link Member for South Tawton) mentioned that there was an open Highways meeting at the Okement Centre in Okehampton on Monday 29th October at which such issues could be questioned. Councillor Cann kindly volunteered to attend on behalf of the council.

i. **Email concerning Footpath No. 1.**
An email from a parishioner concerning the state of the hedge beside Footpath No. 1 was read to council. Having taken written advice from Mr. I. Brooker, council considered this and other pertinent matters and agreed that the clerk be asked to write to the landowner to ask if he would kindly address the problem.

j. **Report on the DALC AGM and Conference 2012.**
Councillor Coombs (chairman) and the clerk gave a brief report on this meeting. It was agreed that council would debate Localism at a future meeting when the position became a little clearer.

k. **Report from councillor Critcher on additional TAPs funding bidding.**
Councillor Critcher was thanked for the report that had been circulated to councillors. He described a further suggested joint bid for a salt spinner and was encouraged by council to research this further.

12/110 Planning

a. **Letter asking for comments on a proposal to build a wind turbine on land belonging to Quarry Farm.**
Having debated this matter council agreed not to reply to this letter but await a possible planning application from WDBC. It was noted that the business involved had proposed turbines on several other sites in other parishes. The clerk had received correspondence from parishioners about the matter which would be filed.

b. **DNPA 0545/12 (Louise Smith, 23th November, 2012) Mr and Mrs C & J Seagon, Field adjacent to Greenlands, Whiddon Down) Full Panning Permission.** Erection of four polytunnels, water storage, pump house and associated works; conversion of barn to farm office, store and packing area.

Council noted this application, which had been received too late to be included on the published agenda. On examination council considered that the documentation lacked sufficient detail to arrive at a reasoned decision and the clerk was directed to contact Mr. J. Aven (DNPA Planning Team Leader) to ask that more information be provided. The application would have to be displayed for 7 days to allow parishioners to comment on it. As the 'return date' allowed, this application would be brought back to council at the November meeting.

12/111 Determination

a. **WDBC 02946/2012 (Louis Dulling 24th August, 2012) Mr and Mrs P Howard, Powlesland Farm, Spreyton, Full Planning Permission.** Change of use of land to equestrian including siting of circular horse-walker. Granted. Conditions: To be ancillary to the ménage and for no other purpose.

b. **DNPA 0414/12 (Jo Burgess, 17th August, 2012). Dr. D. Smith, Hillstead Farm, Sticklepath. Full Planning Permission.** Erection of machinery store and hardcore access yard. Granted. Conditions: The 1000l rain water tank storage tank and associated run off attenuation shall be installed and brought into operation according with the drawing hereby approved, prior to the …completion of the building … and shall be retained thereafter.

c. **DNPA 0370/12 (Jo Burgess, 14th September, 2012) Mr. S. Knox, Well Farm, Throwleigh. Outline Planning Permission.** Erection of agricultural building. Refused. Reasons: Authority not satisfied that the agricultural need claimed for the development was such as to override the policy objection. Detrimental impact … in a medieval landscape. Policies quoted.

12/112 Accounts

a. **Acceptance of accounts to date**.
Proposed by councillor J. White (Vice chairman) and seconded by councillor Cann, all agreed that the accounts be adopted.

b. **Initial thoughts on a budget for 2013/14**.
Council made two recommendations for inclusion in the budget for next year but decided to defer setting the precept for 2012/2013 until the November meeting.

11-Sep-12		Brought forward			£ 17,795.51
11-Sep-12	North Dartmoor Search RT	Grant towards new building	£ 250.00	£ -	£ 17,545.51
24-Sep-12	Victory Hall Committee	Grant for repairs	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 16,545.51
24-Sep-12	Mr T.Sanderson	Toilet cleaning. September 2012	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 16,460.51
10-Oct-12	Mr. T.Sanderson	Annual grass cutting	£ 320.00	£ -	£ 16,140.51
10-Oct-12	Mr.G.Henry	Ramsley Maintenance	£ 250.00	£ -	£ 15,890.51
10-Oct-12	Mr J Richards	Grasscutting in South Tawton	£ 35.00	£ -	£ 15,855.51
22-Oct-12	Cllr. B. Woolland	Expenses claim for Queen's Jubilee event	£ 200.38	£ -	£ 15,655.13
		Taken forward			£ 15,655.13

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.